

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
IN SPECIAL SESSION  
April 1, 2014**

A special session of the Winchester Common Council was held on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 in the Council Chambers, Rouss City Hall. President John Willingham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilor Jeff Buettner, Evan Clark, John Hill and John Tagnesi; Vice-President Milt McInturff; Mayor Elizabeth Minor; Vice-Mayor Les Veach; President John Willingham (8)

**ABSENT:** Councilor Ben Weber (1)

President Willingham stated there is not a Public Comments period on the agenda and asked if there was anyone wishing to address Council. Seeing none, he closed the public comments at 6:01 p.m.

## **2.0 AGENDA**

### **2.1 O-2014-08: First Reading – AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES NECESSARY FOR THE REALIGNMENT OF NATIONAL AVENUE GATEWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BY MEANS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CONDEMNATION AND ACCEPTANCE BY THE CITY OF SAID PROPERTY**

### **2.2 Presentation of General Fund FY15 Proposed Budget Options**

City Manager Dale Iman presented additional budget options at Council's request to increase revenues by spreading it out over several sources. To fund the expenditure recommendations, the proposed tax increases would include 0.5% in meals tax, 1% in hotel tax, 10 cents per pack for the cigarette tax, \$1 for vehicle license tax, \$5 sanitation fee, and 2% in admissions tax for an increase of \$2,758,800. The total revenue increase would be \$78,185,000. Mr. Iman continued to review the FY15 CIP summary.

President Willingham asked the members of Council if there was any interest in changing the real estate tax. The consensus of Council was not to change the tax rate.

President Willingham then asked the members of Council about the sanitation fee.

Mayor Minor asked how it would be implemented. Mr. Iman stated it would be through the water and sewer bills.

Councilor Buettner asked staff to find a previously presented proposal that was well planned out for Council to review again.

Vice-Mayor Veach asked what the sanitation fee in Harrisonburg is. Utilities Director Perry Eisenach stated it was \$25 for residential pick up and \$15 for recycling without residential pick up.

Vice-President McInturff asked if non-profits would be charged. Mr. Eisenach stated anyone who collects trash would pay.

President Willingham asked staff to start the process and bring forward an ordinance.

Vice-Mayor Veach suggested reducing the amount for Social Services by \$70,000 and increasing the meals tax an additional 0.25% to give the Schools the extra \$370,000 they requested.

Councilor Clark stated he thinks cutting Social Services is a bad idea with the additional load they have had and with being short staffed already. He likes the current budget as it is being proposed.

Councilor Buettner stated he is sensitive to Mr. Veach and Mr. Clark's comments but he has always advocated for doing the same for employees across the Schools and the City. If the extra money is to give the School employees a 3% raise, the City needs to find the money to give the City employees a 3% raise as well. He suggested raising the meals tax to 1% instead of 0.5%.

### **3.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 3.1 MOTION TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(a)(7) OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING LEGAL ADVICE AND STATUS UPDATE FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY AND LEGAL CONSULTATION REGARDING THE SUBJECT OF SPECIFIC LEGAL MATTERS REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF LEGAL ADVICE BY THE CITY ATTORNEY AND MATTERS OF ACTUAL OR PROBABLE LITIGATION AND PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(A) (1) OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE SUBJECT OF THE EMPLOYMENT, ASSIGNMENT, APPOINTMENT, AND PERFORMANCE OF SPECIFIC PUBLIC OFFICERS APPOINTEES, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF WINCHESTER INCLUDING THE APPOINTMENT OF OR PROSPECTIVE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(A)(3) AND (6) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OR CONSIDERATION OF THE SUBJECT OF THE ACQUISITION OF AN INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT OF INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS WHERE BARGAINING IS INVOLVED, AND WHERE IF MADE PUBLIC, THE BARGAINING POSITION OR FINANCIAL INTEREST OF THE CITY WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(a) (29) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE AWARD OF A PUBLIC CONTRACT INVOLVING THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS, INCLUDING INTERVIEWS OF BIDDERS OR OFFERORS, AND**

DISCUSSION OF THE TERMS AND SCOPE OF SUCH CONTRACT, WHERE DISCUSSION IN AN OPEN SESSION WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE BARGAINING POSITION OR NEGOTIATING STRATEGY OF THE CITY AND PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(A)(40) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF RECORDS EXCLUDED FROM CHAPTER 37 OF TITLE 2.2 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION 3 of § 2.2-3705.6

Vice-President McInturff moved to convene into executive session at 6:32 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Veach then approved 8/0.*

Vice-President McInturff moved to reconvene in open session at 8:38 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark then approved 8/0.*

Upon returning, each member certified that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed during the closed meeting, and that only those public business matters identified in the motion which convened the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting.

*A roll call vote was taken, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:*

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Councilor Buettner	Aye
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-President McInturff	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
John Tagnesi	Aye
Vice-Mayor Veach	Aye
Councilor Weber	Absent
President Willingham	Aye

#### **4.0 DISCUSSION**

##### **4.1 Discussion of John Kerr Elementary School Comprehensive Agreement**

*No discussion was held on this topic.*

#### **5.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-President McInturff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark then approved 8/0.

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Kari J. Van Diest, CMC  
Deputy Clerk of the Common Council